

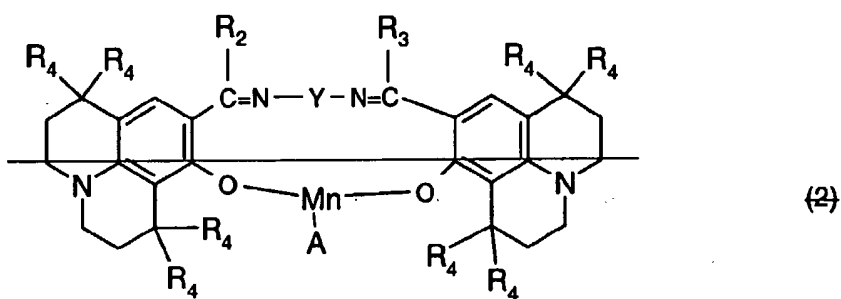
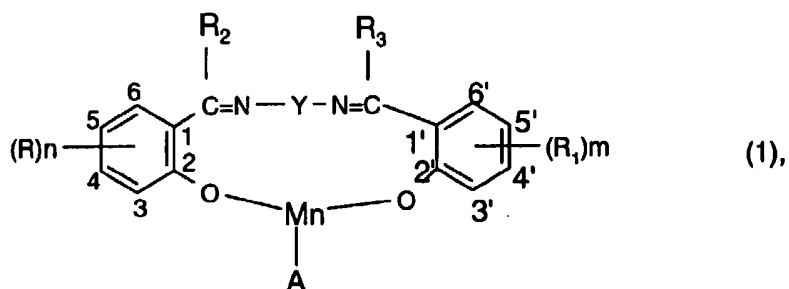
IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims to read as follows.

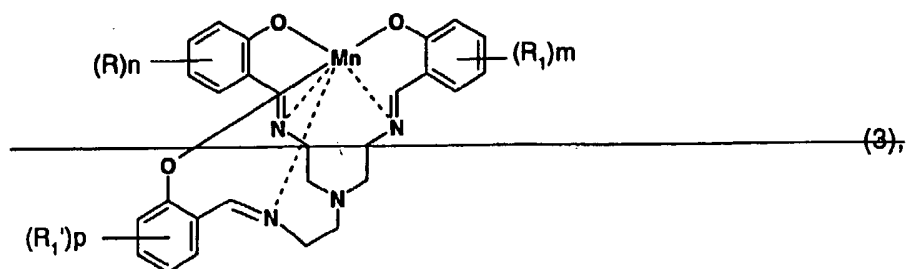
16. (currently amended): Water-soluble granules of manganese complexes, ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of

- a) from 1 to 89 % by weight of a water-soluble manganese complex,
- b) from 10 to 95 % by weight of a dissolution restrainer,
- c) from 0 to 20 % by weight of a further additive and
- d) from 1 to 15 % by weight of water, based on the total weight of the granules.

17. (currently amended): Granules according to claim 16 that comprise as manganese complex a compound of formula



or



wherein

A is an anion;

m , n and p are each independently of the others 0, 1, 2 or 3,

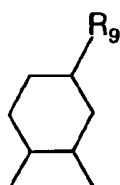
R_4 is hydrogen or linear or branched C_1 - C_4 alkyl,

Y is a linear or branched alkylene radical of formula $-[C(R_4)_2]_r-$, wherein r is an integer from 1 to 8 and the R_4 radicals are each independently of the others as defined above;

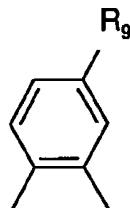
$-CX=CX-$, wherein X is cyano, linear or branched C_1 - C_8 alkyl or di(linear or branched C_1 - C_8 alkyl)amino;

$-(CH_2)_q-NR_4-(CH_2)_q-$, wherein R_4 is as defined above and q is 1, 2, 3 or 4; or

a 1,2-cyclohexylene radical of formula:



or a 1,2-aryl radical of formula

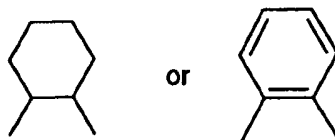


wherein R_9 is hydrogen, SO_3H , CH_2OH or CH_2NH_2 ,

R_7 and R_1 and R_4 are each independently of the others cyano; halogen; OR_4 or $COOR_4$ wherein R_4 is as defined above; nitro; linear or branched C_1 - C_8 alkyl; linear or branched partially fluorinated or perfluorinated C_1 - C_8 alkyl; or NHR_6 , NR_5R_6 or $N^+R_5R_6R_7$ wherein R_5 , R_6 and R_7 are the same or different and are each hydrogen or linear or branched C_1 - C_{12} alkyl or wherein R_5 and R_6 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded form a 5-, 6- or 7-membered ring, which may contain further hetero atoms, or are linear or branched C_1 - C_8 alkyl- R_8 wherein R_8 is a radical OR_4 , $COOR_4$ or NR_5R_6 as defined above or is NH_2 or $N^+R_5R_6R_7$ wherein R_5 , R_6 and R_7 are as defined above, R_2 and R_3 are each independently of the other hydrogen, linear or branched C_1 - C_4 alkyl, unsubstituted aryl or aryl that is substituted by cyano, by halogen, by OR_4 or $COOR_4$ wherein R_4 is hydrogen or linear or branched C_1 - C_4 alkyl, by nitro, by linear or branched C_1 - C_8 alkyl, by NHR_5 or NR_5R_6 , wherein

R_5 and R_6 are the same or different and are each linear or branched C_1 - C_{12} alkyl or wherein R_5 and R_6 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded form a 5-, 6- or 7-membered ring, which may contain further hetero atoms, by linear or branched C_1 - C_8 alkyl- R_7 wherein R_7 is an OR_4 , $COOR_4$ or NR_5R_6 radical as defined above or is NH_2 , or by $N^+R_5R_6R_7$ wherein R_5 , R_6 and R_7 are as defined above.

18. (currently amended): Granules according to claim 17 that comprise as manganese complex a compound of formula (1)-~~or (2)~~ wherein Y is a radical of formula $-(CH_2)_r$ wherein r is an integer from 1 to 4, or is a radical of formula $-C(R_4)_2-(CH_2)_p-C(R_4)_2-$ wherein p is a number from 0 to 3, and each R_4 , independently of the others, is hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 alkyl, or is a 1,2-cyclohexylene radical or a 1,2-phenylene radical of formula:



19. (currently amended): Granules according to claim 17 that comprise as manganese complex a compound of formula (1)-~~(2) or (3)~~ wherein the radicals R_7 and R_1 and R_4 are hydrogen, OR_4 , $N(R_4)_2$ or $N^+(R_4)_3$ and the R_4 groups in $N(R_4)_2$ or $N^+(R_4)_3$ may be different and are each hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 alkyl.

20. (previously presented): Granules according to claim 17 that comprise as manganese complex a compound of formula (1)-~~(2) or (3)~~ wherein the radicals R_2 and R_3 are hydrogen, methyl, ethyl or unsubstituted phenyl.

21. (currently amended): Granules according to claim 17 that comprise as manganese complex a compound of formula (1)-~~or (2)~~ wherein the anion A is a halide, perchlorate, sulfate, nitrate, hydroxide, BF_4^- , PF_6^- , carboxylate, acetate, tosylate or triflate.

22. (currently amended): Granules according to claim 17 that comprise from 1 to 30 % by weight of manganese complex of formula (1)-~~(2) or (3)~~, based on the total weight of the granules.

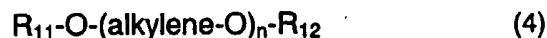
23. (previously presented): Granules according to claim 16 that comprise as dissolution restrainer an anionic dispersing agent, a non-ionic dispersing agent or a water-soluble organic polymer.

24. (previously presented): Granules according to claim 23 that comprise as anionic dispersing agent a condensation product of a naphthalenesulfonic acid with formaldehyde, a sodium salt of a polymerised organic sulfonic acid, a (mono-/di-)alkylnaphthalenesulfonate, a polyalkylated polynuclear arylsulfonate, a sodium salt of a polymerised alkylbenzenesulfonic acid, a lignosulfonate, an oxylignosulfonate or a condensation product of naphthalenesulfonic acid with a polychloromethyldiphenyl.

25. (previously presented): Granules according to claim 23 that comprise as non-ionic dispersing agent a compound selected from the group consisting of:

1. fatty alcohols having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms,
2. addition products of from 2 to 80 mol of alkylene oxide in which some alkylene oxide units are optionally replaced by substituted epoxides, with higher unsaturated or saturated monoalcohols, fatty acids, fatty amines or fatty amides having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms, or with benzyl alcohols, phenylphenols, benzylphenols or alkylphenols in which the alkyl radicals have at least 4 carbon atoms,
3. alkylene oxide condensation products,
4. ethylene oxide/propylene oxide adducts with diamines,
5. reaction products of a fatty acid having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms with a primary or secondary amine having at least one hydroxy-lower alkyl or lower alkoxy-lower alkyl group, or alkylene oxide addition products of such hydroxyalkyl-group-containing reaction products,
6. sorbitan esters or ethoxylated sorbitan esters,
7. addition products of propylene oxide with a tri- to hexa-hydric aliphatic alcohol having from 3 to 6 carbon atoms, and
8. fatty alcohol polyglycol mixed ethers.

26. (previously presented): Granules according to claim 23 that comprise as non-ionic dispersing agent a surfactant of formula



wherein

R_{11} is C_8 - C_{22} alkyl or C_8 - C_{18} alkenyl;

R_{12} is hydrogen; C_1 - C_4 alkyl; a cycloaliphatic radical having at least 6 carbon atoms or benzyl;

"alkylene" is an alkylene radical having from 2 to 4 carbon atoms and
n is a number from 1 to 60.

27. (previously presented): Granules according to claim 23 that comprise as water-soluble polymer a compound selected from the group consisting of:
polyethylene glycols, copolymers of ethylene oxide with propylene oxide, gelatin, polyacrylates, polymethacrylates, polyvinylpyrrolidones, vinylpyrrolidones, vinyl acetates, polyvinylimidazoles, polyvinylpyridine N-oxides, copolymers of vinylpyrrolidone with long-chained α -olefins, copolymers of vinylpyrrolidone with vinylimidazole, poly(vinylpyrrolidone/dimethylaminoethyl methacrylates), copolymers of vinylpyrrolidone/dimethylaminopropyl methacrylamides, copolymers of vinylpyrrolidone/dimethylaminopropyl acrylamides, quaternised copolymers of vinylpyrrolidones and dimethylaminoethyl methacrylates, terpolymers of vinylcaprolactam/vinylpyrrolidone/-dimethylaminoethyl methacrylates, copolymers of vinylpyrrolidone and methacrylamidopropyl-trimethylammonium chloride, terpolymers of caprolactam/vinylpyrrolidone/dimethylaminoethyl methacrylates, copolymers of styrene and acrylic acid, polycarboxylic acids, polyacrylamides, carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxymethylcellulose, polyvinyl alcohols, optionally hydrolysed polyvinyl acetate, copolymers of ethyl acrylate with methacrylate and methacrylic acid, copolymers of maleic acid with unsaturated hydrocarbons and mixed polymerisation products of the said polymers.

28. (previously presented): Granules according to claim 27 that comprise as organic polymer carboxymethylcellulose, a polyacrylamide, a polyvinyl alcohol, a polyvinylpyrrolidone, gelatin, a hydrolysed polyvinyl acetate, a copolymer of vinylpyrrolidone and vinyl acetate, a polyacrylate, a copolymer of ethyl acrylate with methacrylate and methacrylic acid or a polymethacrylate.

29. (previously presented): Granules according to claim 16 that comprise the dissolution restrainer in an amount of from 10 to 95 % by weight based on the total weight of the granules.

30. (previously presented): A washing agent formulation comprising
I) from 5 to 90 of an anionic surfactant A) and/or of a non-ionic surfactant B),
II) from 5 to 70 % of a builder substance C),
III) from 0.1 to 30 % of a peroxide D) and
IV) granules according to claim 17 in such an amount that the washing agent formulation comprises from 0.005 to 2 % of the pure manganese complex of formula (1), ~~(2) or (3)~~, the percentage figures in each case being percentages by weight based on the total weight of the washing agent.